

# Siona language

The **Siona language** (otherwise known as Sioni, Pioje, Pioche-Sioni, Ganteyabain, Ganteya, Ceona, Zeona, Koka, Kanú) is a Tucanoan language of Colombia and Ecuador.

As of 2013, Siona is spoken by about 550 people.<sup>[3]</sup> Teteté dialect (Eteteguaje) is extinct.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Phonology

### Vowels

There are 6 oral vowels and six nasal vowels. Only nasal vowels occur next to a nasal consonant /m/ or /n/.

	<u>Back</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Front</u>
<u>High</u>	i ĩ	ɨ ɥ	u ũ
<u>Mid</u>	ɛ æ		o õ
<u>Low</u>		a ã	

### Consonants

There are two series of obstruent consonant. Both often produce a noticeable delay before the onset of the following vowel: the 'fortis' series (written *p t ċ k kw s h hw*) tends to be aspirated, with a noisy transition to the vowel, while the 'lenis' series (written *b d g gw ’ z*), optionally voiced, is glottalized, with a silent transition to the vowel, which in turn tends to be laryngealized. The glottal stop is faint, and noticeable primarily in the laryngealizing effect it has on adjacent vowels.

	<u>bilabial</u>	<u>alveolar</u>	<u>prepalatal</u>	<u>velar</u>	<u>labio-velar</u>	<u>glottal</u>
<u>voiceless plosives</u>	p <sup>h</sup>	t̪ <sup>h</sup>	tʃ <sup>h</sup>	k <sup>h</sup>	kʷ <sup>h</sup>	
<u>voiced plosives</u>	pʔ ~ bʔ	tʔ ~ dʔ ~ r		kʔ ~ gʔ	kʷʔ ~ gʷʔ	ʔ
<u>Fricative</u>		s ; sʔ ~ zʔ				h ; hʷ
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n				
<u>Semi-vowel</u>			j ~ ɲ		w	

/t̪ʔ/ is realized as [ɾ] between vowels. /j/ is realized as [ɲ] next to nasal vowels.

### Stress

<b>Siona</b>	
<i>Gantëya coca</i>	
Native to	Colombia, Ecuador
Region	Putumayo River
Ethnicity	Siona people, Teteté people
Native speakers	500 (2000–2008) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Tucanoan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Western<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Napo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Siona–Secoya<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Siona</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
<b>Language codes</b>	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div>snn – Siona</div> <div>teb – Teteté</div>
Glottolog	sion1247 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/sion1247">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/sion1247</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

Stress is obligatory on all verb stems, root words, and some suffixes. It disappears when the syllable is not the nucleus of a phonological word. Some monosyllabic morphemes have both stressed and unstressed forms. Although the position of stress within a word is not contrastive, vocalic and consonantal allophony depends on whether a syllable is stressed. Initial stressed vowels followed by unstressed vowels are long and have a falling tone.

## References

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1. Siona (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/snn/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)  
Teteté (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/teb/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Siona-Tetete" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sion1247>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. "Vocabulary of the Language Used by the Indians in These Missions" (<http://www.wdl.org/en/item/8987/>). *World Digital Library*. Retrieved 2013-05-23.
4. Hammarström (2015) *Ethnologue* 16/17/18th editions: a comprehensive review: online appendices

## External links

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- Wheeler, Alva. 1970. *Grammar of the Siona language, Colombia, South America*. (<http://www.sil.org/acpub/repository/22683.pdf>) Ph.D. thesis. University of California. 192 p.
  - *Vocabulario de la lengua que usan los indios de estas misiones* (<http://www.wdl.org/en/item/8987/>). *World Digital Library*. Around 600 - 1699. Retrieved 2013-05-23. Check date values in: |date= (help)
  - Siona (<https://ids.clld.org/contributions/256>) (Intercontinental Dictionary Series)
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